

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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RESKE HONORS LAPEL BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPS

INDIANAPOLIS -- Today, State Rep. Scott Reske (D-Pendleton) presented a concurrent resolution before the House of Representatives honoring the Lapel boys basketball team, which captured the class 1A state basketball championship. The Lapel Bulldogs defeated the Loogootee Lions 51 - 40.

"Not only are these boys gifted athletically, but the team has also maintained a 3.5 grade point average," said Reske. "These boys are the pride of Lapel."

Jimmy Howell, a 1972 graduate of Lapel High School, coached the team to its first championship in decades. This was also the first year he has coached the team.

"It was a tremendous accomplishment for this group of kids," Howell said. "The way the community got behind them was just phenomenal."

The House also honored Howell's niece, high school senior Jodi Howell, who was named Miss Basketball for Indiana. A graduate of Alexandria High School, she will be attending Purdue this fall.

This was the first appearance by the Lapel Bulldogs in the state finals in 65 years. A man who saw their last appearance, in 1940, was also present for their win in 2005. Hershel Teter, who was a cheerleader during the Bulldogs' 1940 state finals appearance, has been the team's bus driver for many years.

"This was wonderful for Lapel. The community is really excited for and proud of what the team has accomplished," said Reske.